

Danish Military Research

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Successful genealogists use a variety of tools and research strategies to conquer their ever burdening brick walls. One of these strategies that is vital to Danish research is using military levying rolls.

What is a Military Levying Rolls

Military levying rolls, or Lægdsruller in Danish, served many purposes for the Danish government, but in essence the levying rolls were lists of men from every village that could be called upon when there was military need. For genealogists, this creates a beautiful record of our male ancestors through many years.

Some Need to Know Facts

In order to use the records and perform the research strategy, there are some important facts you need to know:

- In order to find the records of your ancestors, you will need to know the military number, or lægdsnummer, of the parish he was from. These numbers can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki.
- Every man from every parish was required to be registered in the records from birth. However, there were some exceptions to the rules. To learn about these exceptions see https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls:_Who_was_recorded_in_the_L%C3%A6gdsruller
- Typically a man was listed in every year of the military levy rolls until they reached the upper limit ages, which varied. For more information see https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls:_When_was_a_person_registered_in_the_L%C3%A6gdsruller
- The levy rolls are available from 1789 to 1931. They were updated every three years.
- Cities do not have their own military rolls. If your ancestor lived in the city, they were usually registered with the neighboring country parishes.
- To read more about military levy rolls, see [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls_\(L%C3%A6gdsruller\)](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls_(L%C3%A6gdsruller))

The Records and Research Strategy

Learning how to research an ancestor using lægdsruller can be challenging to understand, but once understood, they are quite easy and simple to use. A great example of how to use and read the records is found on

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Military_Levying_Rolls:_Case_Study_1. Please study the information on this link to understand the strategy better

Accessing the Records

1. Begin by going to www.sa.dk
2. Under the section Arkivalieronline, use the dropdown box to select 'Find din slægt.' Then click the 'Søg,' or search button.

3. A new page will appear. Scroll down the list until you find the section 'Lægdsruller fra hele landet.' Click on the blue link to be taken to the record selection page.
4. Scroll down the page until you find the section "Generalkrigskommisariatet angående Undskrivningsvæsenet.' Select the blue link 'Lægdsruller (1789-1864)' next to the section heading. This will take you to the record selector.
5. In this list, select the county and year. This link will take you to the records themselves.